

As I have said, passage of this legislation was made possible in the United States Senate because of the genuine spirit of bipartisan cooperation. Both the Republican and Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee worked incredibly hard, long hours these past several weeks and months. Their expertise, support, and stamina has been invaluable.

I would like to thank Kolan Davis, Ted Totman, Linda Fishman, Colin Roskey, Leah Kegler, Mark Hayes, Jennifer Bell, and Alicia Ziemiecki of Chairman GRASSLEY's staff.

And I would also like to thank Jeffrey Forbes, Elizabeth Fowler, Bill Dauster, John Blum, Pat Bousilman, Kate Kirchgraber, and Andrea Cohen of Senator BAUCUS' staff for their contributions.

Hazen Marshall, Stacey Hughes, and Megan Hauck of the Senate Budget Committee staff are also commended for their efforts.

Thank you to you all.

I look forward to working with Chairman GRASSLEY and our colleagues in the House of Representatives to produce a conference report that can pass both Houses and be signed by the President in a timely manner later this year.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER TO PRINT S. 1

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1, as passed, be printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(This bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, the Senate is poised to adjourn, but before we adjourn, I want to call us away from the onrushing press of Senate business and impending airline schedules to pay tribute to Independence Day. Next Friday is the glorious Fourth of July, that most patriotic and star-spangled of holidays. With the Fourth of July holiday, summer is at its Halcyon best, with temperatures

still enjoyable, skies richly blue, and trees and lawns still lush and green, and gardens coming into bewildering abundance. In fields and along the roadsides, wildflowers bloom in profusion, and wild blackberries earn our forgiveness for their thorns by offering the tender treasures of their glossy berries.

It is a golden period of enjoyment for students on summer holiday, the respite still feels luxuriously long, full of golden days of enjoyment.

The Fourth of July this year falls on a Friday, easily making a long weekend for summer pleasure. With luck, the Fourth will be clear and cooler, comfortable for marching bands and hometown parades, bathed in glorious sunshine for family picnics and perfect for evening symphonies and fireworks to compete with the glittering stars above.

If the weather is sweltering, however, then we might be better able to empathize with the Delegates to the Second Continental Congress, who met in Philadelphia in the spring and summer of 1776. In hot and muggy summer weather, clad in heavy styles that were designed for a cooler European summer, the Delegates debated and amended, reportedly fending off flies from a nearby stable that swarmed the Hall and bit the Delegates through the silk hose on their lower legs. But they persevered in their momentous task.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a motion to declare independence from England. His resolution declared:

These United Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States.

His resolution passed on July 2 by a 12-0 vote, with New York temporarily abstaining.

The next day, on July 3, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, rejoicing over the decision to secede. To Abigail, he wrote:

The 2nd of July will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the Great Anniversary Festival.

He further suggested that it ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.

This is John Adams speaking. This is not some rustic boob like I was when I came to the House more than half a century ago. Listen to him again:

It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.

It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, illuminations, from one end of this Continent to the other, from this time forward, forever.

How remarkably prescient. Adams was off on the date, as we celebrate the approval of the Declaration of Independence rather than of the adoption of the motion, but he certainly knew how Americans like to celebrate. As well, he accurately predicted the explosive growth of an embryonic nation into a continent-spanning colossus.

That vision took great courage, coming as it did on the eve of putting his signature to a document that could easily become his death warrant. Every signer of that Declaration of Independence committed treason against England, against the King of England, against the crown. Every signer could have been arrested, put in chains and sent by boat to England; tried, convicted, and hanged. The delegates to the Continental Congress had, with this act, committed treason against the crown and set their nascent nation-state on the road to war. After the failed Jacobite uprising against England in 1745 under Bonnie Prince Charles, only 31 years before the delegate met in Philadelphia, the Scottish leaders had been beheaded in public ceremonies.

One Delegate to the Congress, John Witherspoon, put it thus:

There is a tide in the affairs of men, a nick of time. We perceive it now before us. To hesitate is to consent to our own slavery. That noble instrument upon your table, that insures immortality to its author, should be subscribed this very morning by every pen in this house. He that will not respond to its accents, and strain every nerve to carry into effect its provisions, is unworthy of the name of free man. For my own part, of property, I have some; of reputation, more. That reputation is staked, that property is pledged on the issue of this contest; and although these grey hairs must soon descend into the sepulcher, I would infinitely rather that they descend thither by the hand of the executioner than desert at this crisis the sacred cause of my country.

What beautiful words. The signers knew full well what risks they were running.

The first anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence took place in a nation at war, with our battle fortunes at low ebb. But Americans still celebrated in Philadelphia, U.S. ships of war were decked in red, white, and blue. At 1 o'clock, each ship fired a salvo of 13 cannons to honor the 13 States. Members of Congress dined in state with other civil and military dignitaries and made toasts to liberty and to fallen patriots. After dinner, the Members and officers of the Army reviewed the troops, followed by a ringing of bells and a show of fireworks.

In 1788, Philadelphia was serving as the U.S. Capital. On that year, not only was the Declaration of Independence celebrated, but also the U.S. Constitution, which had recently been ratified by 10 States. This July Fourth celebration included another new feature—a parade with horse-drawn floats. One float, that of an enormous eagle, carried the Justices of the Supreme Court in lieu of today's beauty pageant queens.

In 1826, the Nation achieved a milestone when the 50th Independence Day celebration was being planned. The mayor of Washington wrote to invite the surviving ex-Presidents and Signers of the Declaration to attend the festivities. The five men, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and Charles Carroll,